

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-10 are pending in the application, of which claims 3-5 and 9 have been allowed. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendment and remarks presented herein.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner has alleged the claim to contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite an exemplary embodiment of the invention, in which the image data is representative of the original image subjected to a color correction to a preferred tone of color, and the association represents a know-how for performing the image correction. Supported for this claim amendment is found in the specification on at least page 12, lines 16-25 and page 24, lines 4-8. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Ueda

Claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ueda (U.S. Patent Number 6,172,681 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 1, Applicant's claimed invention relates to extracting an association among colors before and after color correction. Image data is obtained from an input device receiving an original image and outputting the image data, the image data being representative of the original image subjected to a color correction to a preferred tone of color. The image data is converted into coordinate values of a colorimetry color space describing a measured value of a color and in accordance with a characteristic of the output device. Coordinate values of the colorimetry color space corresponding to the color of the original image are also obtained. Applicant's color correcting relation extracting method extracts the association between colors before and after the color correction, whereby the association represents a know-how for performing the image correction.

Turning to the cited art, the disclosure of Ueda does not anticipate the claimed invention. While Ueda may refer to a color adjustment and conversion method, there is no teaching of all elements of Applicant's invention, as claimed. Ueda does not disclose obtaining image data from an input device, the image data being representative of the original image subjected to a color correction to a preferred tone of color. Although Ueda describes obtaining an RGB image data from a pickup device (column 8, lines 36-45), there is no teaching or suggestion of such image data representing the original image subjected to a color correction to a preferred tone of color, as claimed.

Ueda also fails to teach or suggest an association between colors before and after the color correction is extracted, the association representing a know-how for performing the image correction. Ueda teaches obtaining only a single kind of Lab data, which cannot extract

the association between colors before and after color correction, whereby the association represents a know-how for performing the image correction, as recited in the claimed invention.

Lab values in Ueda may be coordinates, however, there is no teaching or suggestion of any extraction of **an association representing a know-how for performing the image correction** between colors before and after the color correction, as claimed.

At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, Applicant's claimed invention distinguishes over Ueda. Applicant's claims 2, 6-8 and 10 are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claim 1, which, as established above, distinguishes over Ueda. Therefore, Ueda does not anticipate claims 2, 6-8 and 10 for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectfully requested.

With further regard to claim 10, this claim specifies the colorimetry space, which takes into account characteristics of a device output, and comprises a device-independent space. To the extent Ueda teaches a conversion taking the output device into account, the color space is a device-dependent space.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/631,730
Attorney Docket No. Q60282

Art Unit No. 2626

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 12, 2006